

CLAIMS:

1. An exterior door handle assembly for a vehicle comprising:

a handle housing operatively supported by a door of the vehicle;

a door handle pivotally supported by said handle housing to be flush with an exterior surface of the door.

2. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 1 including a rod pivotally connecting said door handle to said handle housing.

3. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 2 including a spring disposed about said rod and having one end contacting said door handle and another end contacting said handle housing to urge said door handle toward said handle housing.

4. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 1 including a cam pivotally supported by said handle housing and cooperating with an upper portion of said door handle.

5. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 4 wherein said cam has at least one cam surface and said door handle has at least one follower surface cooperating with said cam surface.

6. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 4 including a rod pivotally connecting said cam to said handle housing.

7. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 6 including a bail connected to said rod and cooperating with said door handle.

8. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 7 including a spring disposed about said rod and having one end contacting said bail and another end contacting said handle housing to urge said bail toward said door handle.

9. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 1 including a cam pivotally supported by said handle housing and cooperating with a lower portion of said door handle.

10. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 9 including a rod pivotally connecting said cam to said handle housing.

11. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 10 including a spring disposed about said rod and having one end contacting said cam and another end contacting said handle housing to urge said cam toward said door handle.

12. An exterior door handle assembly as set forth in claim 9 wherein said cam has a cam surface and said door handle has a follower cooperating with said cam surface.

13. A door assembly comprising:

a door adapted to be hingedly connected to a vehicle and having an exterior surface with an aperture extending therethrough; and

an exterior door handle assembly having a handle housing operatively supported by said door adjacent said aperture and a door handle pivotally supported by said handle housing to be flush with said exterior surface of said door.

14. A door assembly as set forth in claim 13 including a rod pivotally connecting said door handle to said handle housing.

15. A door assembly as set forth in claim 14 including a spring disposed about said rod and having one end contacting said door handle and another end contacting said handle housing to urge said door handle toward said handle housing.

16. A door assembly as set forth in claim 13 including a cam pivotally supported by said handle housing and cooperating with an upper portion of said door handle.

17. A door assembly as set forth in claim 16 wherein said cam has at least one cam surface and said door handle has at least one follower surface cooperating with said cam surface.

18. A door assembly as set forth in claim 16 including a rod pivotally connecting said cam to said handle housing.

19. A door assembly as set forth in claim 18 including a bail connected to said rod and cooperating with said door handle.

20. A door assembly as set forth in claim 19 including a spring disposed about said rod and having one end contacting said bail and another end contacting said handle housing to urge said bail toward said door handle.

21. A door assembly as set forth in claim 13 including a cam pivotally supported by said handle housing and cooperating with a lower portion of said door handle.

22. A door assembly as set forth in claim 21 including a rod pivotally connecting said cam to said handle housing.

23. A door assembly as set forth in claim 22 including a spring disposed about said rod and having one end contacting said cam and another end contacting said handle housing to urge said cam toward said door handle.

24. A door assembly as set forth in claim 21 wherein said cam has a cam surface and said door handle has a follower cooperating with said cam surface.

25. A vehicle comprising:

a vehicle body having an opening;

a door hingedly connected to said vehicle body and having an exterior surface with an aperture extending therethrough; and

an exterior door handle assembly having a handle housing operatively supported by said door adjacent said aperture and a door handle pivotally supported by said handle housing to be flush with said exterior surface of said door.